

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing information from a server to a broadcast receiver, the method comprising:

receiving, from the broadcast receiver, identification information for identifying a currently received broadcast station;

receiving, from an external server, state information which indicates a state of a service for providing information concerning said currently received broadcast station corresponding to said identification information;

providing information, from the server, depending on whether a URL is included in the state information; and

transmitting₁ to said broadcast receiver, said ~~received~~ state information and an address corresponding to said service₁ after receiving said identification information from said broadcast receiver and said state information from said external server.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said transmitting provides said state information and said address to said broadcast receiver at least when said ~~information provision~~ service is available.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
performing an information provision service by transmitting information about said ~~information provision~~ service to said broadcast receiver in accordance with an access to said address from said broadcast receiver.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said transmitting provides additional information corresponding to said identification information as well as said state information to said broadcast receiver.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~transmitting~~ ~~provides said state information provided by~~ external server is a content server providing that ~~provides~~ ~~said information provision~~ service to said broadcast receiver, and ~~[[uses]]~~ said server is an address provision server that transmits to transmit an address of said content server, which is the address transmitted in the transmitting ~~providing said information provision service to said broadcast receiver.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein
said server ~~provides information about said information provision service~~ receives request information which requests information about said ~~information provision~~ service and a service session ID equivalent to a session ID associated with said server, transmitted from said broadcast receiver based on said address;

said server performs an authentication process based on said service session ID and, when an authentication error occurs, transmits information indicating the authentication error and identification information for identifying said server to said broadcast receiver;

an authentication server receives authentication ticket issuance request information which requests to issue an authentication ticket for an access to said server as well as an authentication session ID equivalent to a session ID associated with said authentication server, from said broadcast receiver;

said authentication server authenticates said authentication session ID, when granting an authentication, issues ~~[[an]]~~ said authentication ticket, and transmits said ~~issued~~ authentication ticket to said broadcast receiver;

said server receives said authentication ticket transmitted from said broadcast receiver and transmits said ~~received~~ authentication ticket to said authentication server;

said authentication server, when authenticating said ~~received~~ authentication ticket to be valid, transmits information indicating authentication permission to said server;

said server receives said information indicating the authentication permission, issues a service session ID as a session ID associated with said broadcast receiver, and transmits said ~~issued~~ service session ID to said broadcast receiver;

~~said server receives said request information as well as said service session ID from said broadcast receiver; and~~

~~said server performs an authentication process based on said service session ID and,~~
when granting an authentication, transmits associated information corresponding to said request information to said broadcast receiver.

7. (Currently Amended) An information provision apparatus, comprising:

reception means for receiving, from a broadcast receiver, identification information for identifying a currently received broadcast station, and for receiving, from an external server, state information which indicates a state of a service for providing information concerning said currently received broadcast station corresponding to said identification information; and

transmission means for providing information depending on whether a URL is included in the state information, and for transmitting, to said broadcast receiver, said ~~received~~ state information and an address corresponding to said service, after a receiving of

said identification information from said broadcast receiver and said state information from said external server.

8. (Currently Amended) The information provision apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said transmission means transmits said state information and said address to said broadcast receiver at least when said ~~information provision~~ service is available.

9. (Currently Amended) The information provision apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

an information provision service execution means for performing an information provision service by transmitting information about said ~~information provision~~ service to said broadcast receiver in accordance with an access to said address from said broadcast receiver.

10. (Previously Presented) The information provision apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said transmission means transmits additional information corresponding to said identification information as well as said state information to said broadcast receiver.

11. (Currently Amended) The information provision apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said ~~transmission means transmits said state information provided by external server~~ is a content server that provides ~~providing~~ said ~~information provision~~ service to said broadcast receiver, and [[uses]] said information provision apparatus is an address provision server to transmit that transmits an address of said content server, which is the address transmitted by the transmission means ~~providing said information provision service to said broadcast receiver.~~

12. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium encoded with computer program instructions executable by a computer to implement a method of information processing, comprising:

receiving, from the broadcast receiver, identification information for identifying a currently received broadcast station;

receiving, from an external server, state information which indicates a state of a service for providing information concerning said currently received broadcast station corresponding to said identification information;

providing information, from the computer, depending on whether a URL is included in the state information; and

transmitting, to said broadcast receiver, said ~~received~~ state information and an address corresponding to said service, after receiving said identification information from said broadcast receiver and said state information from said external server.

13-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) An information provision apparatus, comprising:

a reception interface ~~to receive~~ that receives, from a broadcast receiver, identification information ~~[[for]]~~ identifying a currently received broadcast station, and that receives ~~for receiving~~, from an external server, state information which indicates a state of a service for providing information concerning said currently received broadcast station corresponding to said identification information; and

a transmitter configured to provide information depending on whether a URL is included in the state information, and to transmit, to said broadcast receiver, said ~~received~~ state information and an address corresponding to said service, after a receiving of said

identification information from said broadcast receiver and said state information from said external server.

17. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the information provided in the providing indicates an unavailability of the service, upon a determination that the URL is not included in the state information.

18. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the transmitting is performed upon a determination that the URL is included in the state information.